

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.114(c)Q77778**  
U.S. Application No. 10/674,808

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-25 are all the claims currently pending in this Application.

**Preliminary Matter: Horiike Reference**

Applicants note that the Examiner refers to the Horiike reference (5,805,184) in the §103(a) rejection of claims 1-3, 8-11, 16-20, 24, and 25 (see Office Action, p. 5).

Applicants therefore assume that the Examiner intended to reject these claims over a combination of Takahashi (U.S. Patent 6,532,026), Saijo (U.S. Patent 6,293,647), and Horiike; that the Examiner intended to reject claims 4, 5, 12, 13, 15, 21, and 22 over Takahashi, Saijo, Horiike, and Ohtsuka (U.S. Patent 6,145,950); and that the Examiner intended to reject claims 6, 7, 14, 15, and 23 Takahashi, Saijo, Horiike, and Fuse (U.S. Patent 5,539,434).

Additionally, Applicants note that Horiike has not been submitted as a reference in any Information Disclosure Statement and that the Examiner has failed to list Horiike on any form PTO-892. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that with the next Office Communication, the Examiner provide Applicants with a form PTO-892 properly listing the Horiike reference.

**Claim Objections**

Claims 12, 13, and 20-24 stand objected to due to informalities. With this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 12, 13, and 20-24 for purposes of clarity and to correct these informalities. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments are not intended to narrow the scope of the claims, but are rather for precision of language and to explicitly recite within the claim what was believed to have already been implicitly defined therein. Accordingly, these amendments do not foreclose application of reasonable equivalents.

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.114(c)Q77778**  
U.S. Application No. 10/674,808

Applicants respectfully request that the objections to the claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

**Claim Amendments**

In addition to the above, independent claims 1, 9, 17, and 19 are amended as shown. These amendments are fully supported in the originally-filed specification at least at paragraph 0072. Claims 4 and 5 are also amended for purposes of clarity. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

**Prior Art Rejections**

Claims 1-3, 8-11, 16-20, 24, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Saijo and Horiike. Claims 4, 5, 12, 13, 15, 21, and 22 rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Saijo, Horiike and Ohtsuka. Claims 6, 7, 14, 15, and 23 rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Saijo, Horiike, and Fuse. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

In the current Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Saijo (col. 7, lns. 61-65) teaches a first ink set and a second ink set, having mutually different combinations of available inks, which can be changed through replacement of at least one of the ink tanks with another ink tank. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Saijo describes that the head cartridges S and K2 of Figure 2 can be replaced by other head cartridges c and m as shown in Figure 3. Each head cartridge, however, comprises an ink tank and a head, as clearly described at col. 7, lns. 35-59. Therefore, Saijo only teaches that the

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.114(c)Q77778**  
U.S. Application No. 10/674,808

head cartridges each having a tank and a head can be replaced by other head cartridges. Saijo fails to teach or suggest any ability to use a first ink set or a second ink set having mutually different combinations of inks through replacement of at least one ink tank without replacement of the head.

The Examiner also asserts that Horiike provides motivation for combining Takahashi and Saijo. However, even a reasonable combination of Takahashi and Saijo fails to teach or suggest all of the claimed limitations of the invention, as discussed above. Furthermore, Horiike only describes that a tank needs to be replaced when it runs out of ink. There is no teaching, motivation, or suggestion in Horiike for providing a printing apparatus in which a first ink set and a second ink set having mutually different combinations of ink can be interchanged through the replacement of at least one ink tank without replacing a non-exchangeable print head.

Furthermore, none of the cited references teaches or suggests replacing a first ink tank with a second ink tank where the second ink tank contains an ink having the same hue but a different density from the ink of the first ink tank.

Based on the above-discussed features of the present invention, the present invention may have an exemplary advantage that the replacement of an ink having the same hue and a different density will not cause excessive color shift of the printed matter even if some ink remains residual in the ink head after replacement.

Both Takahashi and Saijo teach an exchange of inks having different hues. Therefore, the replacement involves replacement of the ink tanks and the ink head. Based on the cited

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.114(c)Q77778**  
U.S. Application No. 10/674,808

references, there would be no motivation to replace an ink tank without replacing an ink head, because residual ink left in the ink head could cause unwanted significant color shift.

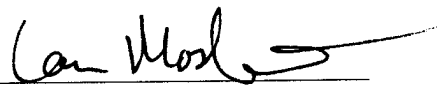
In view of at least the above, Applicants submit that claims 1-25 are patentable over any reasonable combination of the cited references and respectfully request that the rejections of these claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

**Conclusion**

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Laura Moskowitz  
Registration No. 55,470

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

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